

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 393

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Cindy Leigh McAfee of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Cindy Leigh McAfee, a brilliant attorney who cared deeply about the welfare of children; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Red Bank High School and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Ms. McAfee worked for the *Chattanooga Times* and United Press International; and

WHEREAS, following her career as a journalist, she attended Harvard Law School and graduated *cum laude*; she then practiced law in New York City, Washington D.C., and Savannah, Georgia, before returning to Chattanooga to reside; and

WHEREAS, Cindy McAfee served with distinction as an attorney with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) for eleven years, rising to the position of Regional General Counsel for the Southeast and later the Tennessee Valley Region; and

WHEREAS, she was also a Magistrate for the Hamilton County Juvenile Court for two years in between stints with DCS; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure with DCS, Ms. McAfee raised the level of legal practice through her training and mentoring of other DCS attorneys by her example; she cared deeply for children, focusing early in her career on child protective services and later on litigating cases to free hundreds of children for adoption; and

WHEREAS, she was a person of tremendous warmth and insight into the human condition, and every child she dealt with professionally was precious to her and received the special attention that children in crisis deserve; and

WHEREAS, a brilliant attorney with uncommon courtroom skills, she personally handled the majority of the cases for Termination of Parental Rights for the Tennessee Valley Region and rarely lost a case; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's children are safer today because of the work she did and her legacy will continue through the work of those she inspired and nurtured; and

WHEREAS, Cindy McAfee had significant talents as a legal trainer and lecturer, and her regular presentations on assorted legal topics were eagerly anticipated and enjoyed by scores of lawyers across Tennessee; her analysis of legal topics was second to none and will be used for many years to train young lawyers in the skills she possessed; and

WHEREAS, she had a wicked sense of humor, and she was always willing to help, answering questions from colleagues and working through her own doubts and concerns until she was sure she understood the issue and had the right answer; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her skills as an attorney, Cindy McAfee was an accomplished artist who produced museum-quality works in pen and ink, oil, watercolor, and precious metals; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her husband and best friend, Steve Russell; her daughter, Caty McAfee; her mother Frances McAfee; her father and stepmother, Representative Bill McAfee, our former colleague, and Janice McAfee; and a host of friends and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Cindy Leigh McAfee leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember this exceptional attorney, artist, public servant, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we celebrate the life and honor the memory of Cindy Leigh McAfee, reflecting fondly upon her legacy as an attorney who protected children from harm and helped provide them with the best possible lives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Cindy Leigh McAfee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.